



Toxic Release Inventory

What is the Toxic Release Inventory?

- The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) provides Hoosiers information about potential chemical hazards in their communities.
- Two federal statutes, Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act and Section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act, mandate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop and maintain a publicly accessible toxic chemical database, a.k.a. TRI.
- TRI is a valuable source of information regarding toxic chemicals that are being used, manufactured, treated, transported or released into a community's environment.
- Facilities submit toxic release information to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the U.S. EPA. IDEM then uses TRI information to guide where it invests state resources to produce the most significant, positive impact toward pollution prevention efforts and to protect Hoosier health and the environment.

What effect could the release of toxic chemicals in my community have on my health?

- Chemicals released in your community may pose a threat to human health and the environment. TRI data is a good source of information for Hoosiers, but it does not tell the whole story of your community's potential risks.
- If you would like more information about a specific chemical in your community, then log on to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Web site at: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/atsdrhome.html.
- A community, armed with TRI data, has the power to make informed decisions about how toxic chemicals should be managed by local companies.
 - TRI data often spurs a company to focus on its chemical management practices because these practices are being measured and made public.

What kinds of facilities are required to report TRI information and how often?

- Facilities must file a TRI report if they:
 - employ 10 or more employees,
 - fall into a Standard Industrial Classification codes which require them to report and
 - manufacture, process or otherwise use a listed toxic chemical above established thresholds.
- More than 1,000 Hoosier facilities report to TRI each year.
- Facilities submit reports about their yearly chemical releases by July 1 of the following year.
- Indiana manufacturers began reporting to TRI in 1988. IDEM established 1991 as the baseline year to begin observing the general direction, or trends, of the reported amounts.

What is IDEM doing to help Hoosier manufacturers reduce toxic releases?

- On April 24, 1998, Governor Frank O'Bannon announced the Governor's Toxic Reduction Challenge. The challenge implements three goals to aid in the reduction of carcinogens and persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) compounds, such as lead and mercury, released to air and water.
 - PBTs are highly toxic, long-lasting substances that can build up in the food chain to levels that are harmful to human and environmental health.
- There are three goals for the challenge:
 - Achieve a 50 percent reduction by Dec. 31, 2001, in the amount of carcinogens and PBT pollutants released to air and water in large urban areas of the state. The results of this goal will be available after July 1, 2002.
 - Achieve a 60 percent reduction statewide by Dec. 31, 2002, for the same chemicals.
 - Achieve a 50 percent reduction statewide by Dec. 31, 2003, for all chemicals reported to TRI.

Where can I get more information about toxic releases in my neighborhood?

You can find more information about TRI through IDEM's Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance at (800) 988-7901 or visit our TRI Web page at: www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/tri/.